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PP RUEHWEB

DE RUEHKV #1153 1881557
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 071557Z JUL 09
FM AMEMBASSY KYIV
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8087
INFO RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY 0460
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS PRIORITY

UNCLAS KYIV 001153

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [UP](#) [IR](#)
SUBJECT: UKRAINE MUM ON IRAN ELECTIONS

Sensitive but unclassified. Handle accordingly.

¶1. (SBU) Ministry of Foreign Affairs Iran Desk Officer Yuliya Yushchenko told Emboff on July 2 that while Ukraine is concerned about events surrounding the election in Iran, it has taken a position of non-interference. Ukraine has not issued any statements regarding the election or its aftermath.

¶2. (SBU) Yushchenko said that Ukraine is aware that some EU countries have considered pulling their diplomats out of Iran in response to the detention of British Embassy local staff. Ukraine is unlikely to follow suit, but Yushchenko did not rule this out completely. Yushchenko explained that Ukraine has five diplomats in Iran and that there are approximately 10 Iranian diplomats in Ukraine. Bilateral relations focus mostly on trade, with approximately one thousand Ukrainians in Iran as skilled labor, including workers at the Bushehr nuclear power plant.

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